



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2008

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

**TRANSCRIBED AUDIO STATEMENT OF U.S. ATTORNEY JOHNNY SUTTON
REGARDING THE SENTENCINGS OF RENE HUMBERTO PEREZ AND ROSALIA VEGA**

“This is United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. Today in an El Paso Federal District Court, 18-year-old Rene Perez and 19-year-old Rosalia Vega of El Paso were sentenced to 121 months and 46 months in federal prison, respectively, for their roles in a marijuana smuggling and distribution organization.

From September 2006 to August of 2007, Perez, Vega and approximately 15 other people were involved in a conspiracy to smuggle in from Mexico and distribute more than 10,000 pounds of marijuana.

The idea that a large scale drug smuggling operation like this one could be run by local high school students is mind-blowing to most Americans. Unfortunately, that is exactly what occurred in this case. Instead of graduation ceremonies and hopes for college, these students are on their way to federal prison.

I'd like to congratulate the FBI, as well as the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Customs and Border Protection and the El Paso Police Department for the excellent job they did in investigating this case and bringing these criminals to justice.”